

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Final Office Action mailed February 3, 2006. Reconsideration of this application in view of the below remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 1-6, 8-12, 14, 16, 17, 19-22, 24, 25 and 27-28 are pending in the application with Claims 1, 3, 16 and 28 being in independent form. By the present amendment, Claims 1, 3, 6, 16, 25 and 28 have been amended and Claims 2, 8 and 20 have been canceled, without prejudice. No new subject matter is introduced into the disclosure by way of the present amendment.

Initially, Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that Claims 3, 8-10, 14, 19, 20, 24, 25 and 27 contain patentable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of independent Claim 1. Therefore Claim 3, as well as Claims 9, 10 and 14, which depend from Claim 3, is believed to be patentably distinct and allowable over the cited prior art references.

Additionally, Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 12, 16, 17, 22 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,876,327 issued to Tsuyuki et al. (hereinafter “Tsuyuki et al.”). The Examiner has also rejected Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 11, 16, 17, 21 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,292,221 issued to Lichtman (hereinafter “Lichtman”).

In response, Claims 1, 16 and 28 have been amended to recite the limitations of Claims 2 and 8. Therefore, as the limitations recited in Claim 8 and now included in Claims 1, 16 and 28 are patentably distinct and allowable over the cited prior art; Claims 1, 4-6, 11, 12, 16, 17, 21, 22 and 28 are believed to patentably distinct and allowable over the prior art as well.

Claims 2, 8 and 20 are canceled because the limitations recited therein have been

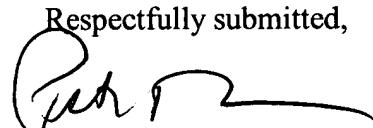
incorporated into the base claims. Claim 6 has been amended to make the claim depend from independent Claim 1. Claim 25 has been amended to remove the limitation of: "...the holding member has a slide contact surface which is slidable on the inner wall of a housing enclosing the case..." as this limitation is already recited in Claim 16 from which Claim 25 depends.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection with respect to Claims 1, 4-6, 11, 12, 16, 17, 21, 22 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

CONCLUSIONS

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims presently pending in the application, namely, Claims 1, 3-6, 9-12, 14, 16, 17, 19, 21, 22, 24, 25 and 27-28 are believed to be in condition for allowance and patentably distinguishable over the art of record.

If the Examiner should have any questions concerning this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call Applicant's undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter I. Bernstein
Registration No. 43,497

SCULLY, SCOTT, MURPHY & PRESSER, P.C.
400 Garden City Plaza - Ste. 300
Garden City, New York 11530
(516) 742-4343

PIB:DAT:jam